PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. ***(previously presented)*** A slidingly engageable fastening device comprising:

a first portion that includes:

a first base having a first basal surface;

and a plurality of first undercut segments spaced from said first basal surface; and

a second portion, for slidingly engaging with said first portion upon application of a relative shearing force with respect to said first and second portions, said second portion including:

a second base having a plurality of fenestrations and a second basal surface, said second base continuous between said fenestrations to stem segments, each said stem segment extending away from said second basal surface to the top surface of an island spaced from said second basal surface, each said island having a segmented edge comprising a plurality of second undercut segments, each said second undercut segment extending away from a sidewall of an adjacent said stem segment, so as to overhang at least part of a corresponding said fenestration;

wherein said undercut segments associated with each said island are separated by intervening said stem segments and include undersides spaced from said second basal surface, and wherein edges of said undercut segments are oblique to the edges of said undercut segments associated with adjacent said islands, and further wherein

said sidewalls and undersides are configured to provide a generally tapered aperture for progressively receiving adjacent pairs of said first undercut segments between said sidewalls, said undersides, and the plane of said second basal surface, so as to connect and interlock said first portion with said second portion upon application of said relative shearing force.

2. ***(previously presented)***A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in groups of two in a generally bilateral disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of apertures, each of said apertures associated with a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said first undercut segments, said plurality of apertures for receiving complementary pairs of said plurality of second undercut segments.

3. ***(currently amended)***A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in groups of three in a generally triangular disposition, said first portion further comprising sets of three apertures, and a plurality of aperture openings each associated with a corresponding one of said sets of three apertures, each of said sets of three apertures and each of said plurality of aperture openings corresponding to a ~~corresponding~~ set of three adjacent ones of said first undercut segments, said sets of three apertures for receiving complementary sets of three of said plurality of second undercut segments.

4. ***(currently amended)*** A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of first undercut segments are arranged in groups of four in a generally quadrille disposition, said first portion further comprising sets of four apertures and a plurality of aperture openings each associated with a corresponding one of said sets of four apertures, each of said sets of four apertures and each of said plurality of aperture openings corresponding to a ~~corresponding~~ set of four adjacent ones of said first undercut segments, said sets of four apertures for receiving complementary sets of four of said plurality of second undercut segments.

5. ***(previously presented)*** A device as in claim 1, wherein said segmented edges of said islands are configured in a generally hexagonal disposition and said islands are arrayed to provide a plurality of generally hexagonal aperture openings between adjacent groups of three said islands, said aperture openings for accepting sets of at least three said first undercut segments prior to application of

said relative shearing force.

6. ***(canceled)***

7. ***(currently amended)***A device as in claim 1, wherein said plurality of second undercut segments are arranged in groups of two arrayed in ~~**rows that include a first row, a second row located adjacent said first row and a third row located adjacent said first row, said second portion further comprising a plurality of islands each having an island top surface, each of said pairs associated with a corresponding one of said plurality of islands, further wherein a portion of said second basal surface corresponding to said first row is generally coplanar with one of said island top surfaces corresponding to said second row and is spaced from said second basal surface corresponding to said third row by a plurality of said stem segments.**~~ **a first row generally perpendicular to said force;**
and further wherein each said top surface of an island is generally coplanar with a third basal surface of a third fenestrated base, said third base continuous between fenestrations to a plurality of second stem segments extending away from said third basal surface to the segmented top surfaces of a second row of third islands with undercut segments extending over corresponding fenestrations in said third base between said third stem segments;
and further wherein said top surfaces of said third islands are generally coplanar with a fourth basal surface with associated third stem segments extending away from said fourth basal surface to a third row of fourth islands;
thereby effecting a slidingly engaging fastening device with a stepped longitudinal profile.

8. ***(previously presented)*** A device as in claim 1, wherein ones of said stem segments associated with each said island are conjoined into contiguous stems and wherein said undercut segments extend away from sidewalls of said stems.

9. ***(previously presented)*** A device as in claim 8, wherein ones of said stems are

associated with at least three of said second undercut segments.

10. ***(currently amended)***A device as in claim 1, wherein ~~**said second portion further comprises a plurality of apertures and**~~ said second basal surface includes a means for diverting said plurality of first undercut segments into engagement with corresponding ones of said ~~**plurality of**~~ apertures.

11. ***(currently amended)***A device as in claim 1, wherein ~~**said second portion further comprises a plurality of apertures and**~~ said second basal surface includes a diverting structure that directs said plurality of first undercut segments into engagement with corresponding ones of said ~~**plurality of**~~ apertures.

12. ***(previously presented)***A slidingly engageable fastening device operable upon application of a relative shearing force, including:

a first portion comprising at least one first island spaced from a first base;

and a second portion comprising:

a plurality of second islands each including:

a top surface with a segmented edge,

a plurality of undercut segments with undersides extending to said segmented edge,

and a plurality of stem segments located between said undercut segments;

and a fenestrated second base structure which includes:

a basal surface and a plurality of fenestrations,

with sectors of said second base structure extending between said fenestrations and connecting with said stem segments;

wherein said stem segments extend away from said basal surface to said top

surface, and said undercut segments are spaced from said basal surface and extend away from sidewalls of said stem segments so as to overhang corresponding said fenestrations;

and further wherein said sidewalls of said stem segments and said undersides of said undercut segments effect a plurality of generally tapered apertures between said undersides and the plane of said basal surface for progressively receiving and slidingly engaging with said at least one first island upon application of said relative shearing force.

13. ***(previously presented)***A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally bilateral disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

14. ***(previously presented)***A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally triangular disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first aperture openings each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second aperture openings each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

15. ***(previously presented)*** A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first islands and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally quadrille disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first aperture openings each defined by four corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second aperture openings each defined by four

corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

16. ***(previously presented)*** A device as in claim 12, wherein a plurality of said at least one first island and said plurality of second islands are each configured in a generally hexagonal disposition, said first portion further comprising a plurality of first aperture openings each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of first islands, and said second portion further comprising a plurality of second aperture openings each defined by three corresponding adjacent ones of said plurality of second islands.

17. ***(canceled)***

18. ***(currently amended)***A device as in claim 12, wherein ~~**a plurality of said at least one first islands and**~~ said plurality of second islands are ~~**each**~~ arrayed in ~~**rows that include**~~ a first row~~**, a second row located adjacent said first row and a third row located adjacent said first row, ones of said first and second pluralities of islands each having an island top surface, further wherein a portion of**~~ **and wherein** said ~~**second**~~ basal surface ~~**corresponding to said first row**~~ is generally coplanar with ~~**one of said**~~ island top surfaces ~~**corresponding to said**~~ **of a** second row **of islands adjacent said first row; and further wherein said top surfaces of said plurality of second islands are generally coplanar with a third basal surface associated with a third row of islands adjacent said first row.**

~~**and is spaced from said second basal surface corresponding to said third row**~~.

19. ***(currently amended)*** A double-sided interlocking fastening device, comprising: **the slidingly engageable fastening device according to claim 12, wherein said second portion also includes a plurality of third islands each having a top surface with a segmented edge, a plurality of undercut segments with undersides extending to said edge overhanging portions of**

said fenestrations, and a plurality of stem segments extending from the top surface of said third islands to a second basal surface of said second base structure, said third islands configured to define a plurality of generally tapered apertures between sidewalls of said stem segments, said undersides, and the plane of said second basal surface.

~~**a base having a first basal surface and an opposing second basal surface;**~~

~~**a plurality of first islands with segmented edges and undercut segments attached to said base and spaced from said first basal surface by stem segments located between said undercut segments ;**~~

~~**a plurality of second islands attached to said base and spaced from said second basal surface by stem segments located between undercut segments of said second;**~~

~~**wherein sets of two laterally adjacent said first islands and sets of two laterally adjacent said second islands each define apertures for receiving and slidingly engaging with others of said islands.**~~

20. ***(currently amended)*** A device as in claim 19, wherein said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands and said ~~plurality of~~ second **and third** islands are each configured in a generally bilateral disposition, said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands configured to define a plurality of first apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands and said ~~plurality of~~ second **and third** islands defining a plurality of second apertures each defined by a corresponding pair of adjacent ones of said ~~**plurality**~~ **of** second **and third** islands.

21. ***(currently amended)***A device as in claim 19, wherein said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands and said ~~**plurality of**~~ second **and third** islands are each configured in a generally triangular disposition, said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands defining a plurality of first apertures each defined by corresponding adjacent ones of said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands and said ~~**plurality of**~~ second **and third** islands defining a plurality of second apertures each defined by corresponding

adjacent ones of said ~~plurality of~~ second **and third** islands.

22. ***(currently amended)***A device as in claim 19, wherein said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands and said ~~**plurality of**~~ second **and third** islands are each configured in a generally quadrille disposition, said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands defining a plurality of first apertures each defined by corresponding adjacent ones of said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands and said plurality of second **and third** islands defining a plurality of second apertures each defined by corresponding adjacent ones of said ~~**plurality of**~~ second **and third** islands.

23. ***(currently amended)*** A device as in claim 19, wherein said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands and said ~~**plurality of**~~ second **and third** islands are each configured in a generally hexagonal disposition, said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands defining a plurality of first apertures each defined by corresponding adjacent ones of said ~~**plurality of**~~ first islands and said ~~**plurality of**~~ second **and third** islands defining a plurality of second apertures each defined by corresponding adjacent ones of said ~~**plurality of**~~ second **and third** islands.

24. ***(canceled)***

25. (***currently amended***)A slidingly engageable **fastening device as in claim 12, also** ~~**fastener,**~~ comprising:

~~**a first portion that includes:**~~

~~**a base having a first basal surface and**~~ a second basal surface opposite said first basal surface~~**; and**~~

~~**a plurality of first islands attached to said base and extending away from said first basal surface, wherein sets of two adjacent said first islands each define an aperture for receiving and slidingly engaging with a plurality of second islands;**~~ and

a plurality of attachment devices ~~**engaging said first portion and**~~ extending away from said second basal surface.

26. ***(original)***A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of nail-like devices.

27. ***(original)***A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of riveting devices.

28. ***(original)***A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of expansion devices.

29. ***(original)***A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of friction fitting devices.

30. ***(original)***A slidingly engageable fastener as in claim 25, wherein said plurality of attachment devices is a set of folding devices.

31. ***(currently amended)***A fastening device **according to claim 1** secured to a substrate material, **said device also** comprising:

~~**a first portion that includes:**~~

~~**a first base having a first basal surface and a second basal surface spaced from said first basal surface; and**~~

~~**a plurality of first islands attached to said first base and extending away from said first basal surface, wherein adjacent pairs of said plurality of first islands each define an aperture for receiving, and interlocking with, a plurality of second islands; and**~~

a backing structure for confronting said second **base** ~~**basal surface**~~ and being attachable to said **second** ~~**first**~~ portion, said backing structure for securing said **second** ~~**first**~~ portion to the substrate material when said backing structure is attached to said first portion.

32. ***(currently amended)***A fastening device as in claim 31, wherein ones of said ~~**first plurality of**~~ islands include receptors having corresponding receptor

openings located on **a third** ~~**said second**~~ basal surface **opposite said second basal surface,** and wherein said backing structure comprises a set of pins corresponding to said receptors.

33. ***(previously presented)***An interlocking device for slidingly engaging a plurality of first islands, comprising:

a base having a plurality of fenestrations and a basal surface; and

a plurality of second islands , each said second island comprising a plurality of undercut segments spaced from said basal surface and overhanging corresponding fenestrations, said undercut segments separated by stem segments so as to effect an island top surface with a segmented edge attached to said base by said stem segments;

thereby defining a plurality of apertures for receiving said plurality of first islands, each of said plurality of second islands including at least three undercut segments spaced from one another, wherein said undercut segments are aligned in a direction perpendicular to said basal surface with at least part of ones of said fenestrations.

34. ***(currently amended)*** An interlocking device for slidingly engaging a plurality of first islands, comprising:

a base having a plurality of fenestrations and a basal surface; and

a plurality of second islands attached to said base and defining a plurality of generally tapered apertures between adjacent pairs of said islands and the plane of said basal surface for receiving said plurality of first islands, **each of** said plurality of second islands including undercut segments spaced from one another by **a plurality of** intermediary stem segments extending away from said base **to the top surface of each of said second islands** ;

wherein **each** ~~**at least two**~~ of said undercut segments extend over ~~**each of**~~ at least some of said plurality of fenestrations.

Claims 35-43 (Canceled)

44. *(currently amended)* A product, comprising:

a slidingly ~~engagable~~ **engageable fastening device according to claim 12 wherein said first portion is located at a first segment of said product and said second portion is located at a second segment of said product remote from said first segment.**

~~fastener that includes:~~

~~a first portion comprising:~~

~~a first base having a first basal surface; and~~

~~a plurality of first undercut segments spaced from said first basal surface; and~~

~~a second portion for slidingly interlocking with said first portion upon application of a force to one of said first and second portions in a direction generally parallel to said first basal surface, said second portion including:~~

~~a second base having a plurality of fenestrations and a second basal surface;~~

~~a plurality of stems, each having a first end attached to said second base at a location between adjacent said fenestrations and a second end distal from said second basal surface located between adjacent second undercut segments extending away from sidewalls of said stems over at least part of corresponding said fenestrations,~~

~~thereby defining a plurality of generally tapered apertures for receiving said first undercut segments upon application of said force.~~

45. *(currently amended)* A product as in claim 44, **wherein said first base is contiguous with said second base structure, and said at least one first island is spaced from a second surface of said first base opposite said basal surface of said second base structure.** ~~further comprising a component having a third portion and a fourth portion spaced from said third portion, said third~~

~~**portion containing said first portion and said fourth portion containing said second portion.**~~

46. ***(currently amended)*** A product as in claim 45, wherein said **product** ~~**component**~~ includes an elastic section located between said **first and second** ~~**third and fourth**~~ portions.

47. ***(original)*** A product as in claim 44, comprising two or more components wherein said first and second portions are located on diverse ones of said two or more components.

48. ***(currently amended)*** A method of fastening two portions comprising the steps of:

Providing ~~**a first portion that includes:**~~

~~**a first base, and**~~

~~**a first plurality of first islands each having at least one undercut surface spaced from said first base;**~~

~~**Providing a second portion in accordance with**~~ **the slidingly engageable fastening device of** claim 1;

Arranging said first and second portions so that at least one **pair** of said first **undercut segments** ~~**islands**~~ is aligned with at least one of said apertures; and

Applying **said** ~~**a**~~ relative shearing force to said first and second portions so as to cause said **first undercut segments** ~~**islands**~~ to be slidingly engaged with said apertures.

49. ***(cancelled)***

50. ***(previously presented)*** A device as in claim 1, wherein the top surfaces of said islands and said second basal surface are visible from a first location remote from said top surfaces, and said undercut segments and a third basal

surface, opposite said second basal surface, are visible from a second location remote from said second surface.

51. ***(cancelled)***

52. ***(previously presented)*** A device as in claim 19 wherein the top surfaces of said first islands, said first basal surface, and undersides of said second islands are visible from a first location remote from said first islands; and the top surfaces of said second islands, said second basal surface, and undersides of said first islands are visible from a second location remote from said second islands.

53- 59 ***(canceled)***

60. ***(previously presented)*** A product as in claim 44, wherein said first portion and said second portion are integral components of a singular structural entity.

61. (***currently amended***) A product as in claim **45** ~~44~~, wherein said **second** ~~first basal~~ surface is opposite said ~~second~~ basal surface and said first portion is located remote from said second portion **thereby providing a self engaging strap**.

62. (***previously presented***) A device as in claim 1 also comprised of a singular thermoplastic entity.

63. (***previously presented***) A device as in claim 1 also comprised of a singular metal entity.

64. (***previously presented***) A device as in claim 1 also comprised of a singular fibrous material.

65. (***previously presented***) A device as in claim 1 also comprised of a composite material.

66. (***previously presented***) A device as in claim 1 also comprised of a singular thermoset plastic entity.

END OF AMENDED CLAIMS

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION:

Summary of Claim status:

Claims 1, 2, 12-14, 33, 50, and 62-66, indicated as allowed in the OA, are unchanged.
Claims 5, 8, 9, 15, 16, 26-30, and 52, previously withdrawn, are reinstated without amendment.
Claims 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 18, 19, 20-23, 25, 31, 32, 45, 46, and 61, previously withdrawn, are amended.
Claim 48 is amended as directed by the OA.
Claims 34, 44, 47, and 60 are amended in accordance with applicant's understanding of the interview of 2/2/2007.

Discussion re Amended Claims

Claims 3 and 4 are amended only to eliminated duplicate language.

Claim 7, referring to embodiments of the type illustrated in Fig. 5 described in the paragraph beginning on page 18, has been amended with regard to Examiner's comments in the Interview of 2/2/07. The device of claim 1 is provided with a singular row the second undercut segments and associated base structure. Thence additional rows are provided with a stepped geometric relationship to the first row. Therefore, the Examiner's objection regarding inconsistency of terminology in the previously presented claim is overcome.

Claims 10 and 11 are amended for consistency with the previously amended Claim 1.

Claim 18, also referring to embodiments of the type illustrated in Fig 5 described on page 18, is amended to avoid inconsistency of language as noted above, here with regard to referenced claim 12.

Claim 19, referring to a double-sided fastening device as in Fig 7/ page 19, is amended

to be dependent on Claim 12, with an additional plurality of islands related to a second surface.

Claims 20-23 are amended to agree with the language of referenced Claims 12 and 19.

Claim 25, referring to embodiments of the type of Fig.9 described beginning at bottom of page 20, is amended to be dependent on Claim 12.

Claim 31, referring to embodiments of the type illustrated in Fig. 8 described on page 20, is amended to depend on Claim 1.

Claim 32 is amended to agree with the language of referenced Claims 1 and 31.

Claim 34 is amended to overcome the Examiner's objection by more fully distinguishing the present invention over the referenced prior art. In particular, the claim now includes a plurality of stem segments which reads over the both Duffy and Allan.

Claim 44, referring to products such as the type illustrated in Fig. 10 and described on page 21, is amended to be dependent on Claim 12, thereby reading over the cited prior art.

Claims 45 and 46 are amended to agree in language with referenced Claims 12 and 44.

Claims 47 and 60, rejected by the office action, are unchanged in that they now read over the cited prior art due to the amendment of referenced Claim 44.

Method of Use Claim 48 is amended in accordance with the suggestion of the Office Action so that it now includes all of the limitations of Claim 1.

Claim 61 is currently amended to depend on Claim 45 in lieu of 44 and for clarification.